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J. Thomas
1-3-02

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: JHU1220-4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Lee and Esquela
Serial No.: 09/361,655
Filed: July 27, 1999
Title: METHODS OF DETECTING A LIVER DISORDER (Amended)

Box CPA
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the Request for a Continued Prosecution Application submitted herewith, entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application in view thereof and of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.10 "EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label Number: <u>EV 016 236 596 US</u> Date of Deposit: <u>December 20, 2001</u> | |
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| <u>Aldon Griffis</u> (Name of Person Mailing Paper) | |
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In re Application of
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A. AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claim 16 without prejudice.

Please amend claim 15 to read as follows:

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E,

15. (Thrice amended) A method of detecting a liver cell proliferative disorder,
comprising
contacting an antibody that specifically binds to growth differentiation factor-12
(GDF-12) polypeptide having an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:12 with
a liver specimen from a subject under conditions suitable for formation of a complex; and
comparing the amount of complex in the liver specimen to the amount in a control
sample, wherein a difference is indicative of a liver cell proliferative disorder.